

What should I do?

Control

Contaminated runoff or illegal dumping	Do not allow contaminated wash water or dumpster drainage to go down storm drains.
Trash, litter, other waste	Control litter to prevent release of PCBs from inks on packaging and paper products into our streams.
Spills, leaks, or drips	Monitor equipment and storage containers for leaks and spills that may enter the environment.

Inspect

Electrical or insulation equipment	If equipment was manufactured before 1980, assume PCBs are present. Check with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for proper disposal.
Worksite storm drains and hazardous waste	Check storm drains to ensure hazardous runoff cannot reach them. Never dump wastewater into storm drains.

Clean up

Equipment and dirt/debris	Remove debris prior to washing equipment with water. Protect storm drains to prevent pollutants from entering.
Spills, leaks, or drips	Immediately clean up leaks, spills, or drips of chemicals, paints, or oils according to proper disposal guidelines.

Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/pcbs

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/

City of Alexandria

www.alexandriava.gov

Fairfax County

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

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www.flaticon.com

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

www.deq.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Health

www.vdh.virginia.gov

Roanoke County

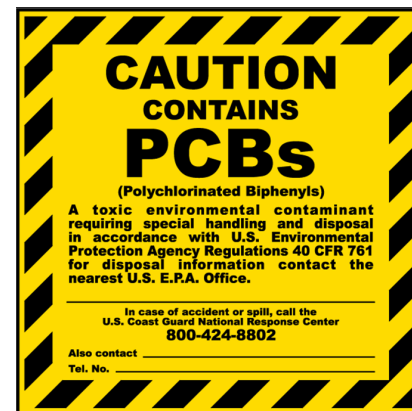
www.roanokecountyva.gov

Division of Planning and Environmental Services

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Polychlorinated Biphenyls
in buildings
and facilities

PCBs

What are PCBs?

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are man-made chlorinated chemicals that are legacy pollutants. The U.S. banned the manufacture of PCBs in 1979 after 50 years of production. The ban was due to the toxicity of PCBs. Many industrial and commercial businesses used PCBs in lubricants, coolants, electrical equipment, and hydraulic equipment. PCBs were also used as plasticizers in paints, plastics, and rubbers; and in pigments, dyes, and inks.

Why are PCBs an issue?

PCBs do not readily decompose under normal environmental conditions allowing them to remain in air, water, and soil for long periods of time. PCBs settle into the sediment of our waterways and adhere to soils on our land. This can cause PCBs to remain buried at the bottom of water bodies and bioaccumulate in plants, food crops, or fish. People who ingest PCB exposed fish or food crops risk exposure to PCBs. This is dangerous because PCBs are known to cause cancer and have adverse health effects on the immune, reproductive, neurological, and nervous systems.

Where are PCBs found?

In Northern Virginia, prepare for potential PCB contamination and containment related to the demolition of any building constructed or renovated prior to 1980 of greater than 10,000 ft².



PCBs are commonly found in

- Transformers and capacitors
- Coolants in electrical equipment
- Lubricants and hydraulic fluids
- Old fluorescent light ballasts
- Thermal insulation materials
- Adhesives and tapes
- Caulk
- Roofing materials and asphalt
- Pesticides
- Plastics
- Inks in products such as newspapers, magazines, or cardboard
- Clothing pigments and dyes
- Paints

Locations to look out for

- Locations with previous contamination including locations downstream/downwind of earlier releases.
- Railroad facilities and pipelines.
- Byproducts or inadvertent generation from solvent, paint, printing ink, coatings, plastics manufacture, or use.
- Old landfills, scrap yards, and sites of leaks or explosions of electrical/ other PCB containing equipment.

What are common names of materials containing PCBs?

PCBs may be labeled as Askarel, Eucarel, Pyranol, Dykanol, Clorphen, Clorinol, Chlorextol, Diacolor, Hyvol, Asbestol, Inerteen, Elemex, Saf-TKuhl, No-Flanol, Nopolin, EEC-18.

How do I report PCBs?

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional PCB Hotline: **215-814-3255**
- The Toxic Substances Control Act Hotline: **202-554-1404**
e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality: **804-698-4000**
- Register PCB containing transformers:
<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/registering-transformers-containing-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs>

